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RAINBOW set for the Rainbow

Rainbow over London

RAINBOW have exclusively confirmed to MM the dates of their New Year tour, which will include a London show, probably at the Rainbow.

The tour will follow the January release of a new Rainbow single, "All Night Long", from their "Down To Earth" album.

The dates start at Newcastle City Hall on February 19 and 20 (tickets £4.50), then: Edinburgh Ingliston Royal Highland Exhibition Hall (22, £4), Stafford New Bingley Hall (23, £4), Manchester Apollo (26, £4.50, £4), Queensferry Deeside Leisure Centre (27, £4) and Leicester Granby Halls (2, £4).

Another two or three concerts, including the extra London show, will be added to the tour, and are expected to be confirmed next week.

Tickets are available from the box offices from Saturday except for Leicester, where postal applications will be accepted imediately. The date for personal applications should be checked with the venue.

Additional ticket outlets are: Ingliston — Edinburgh Odeon, Edinburgh Usher Hall, Glasgow Apollo, Dundee Cathie McCabe Records; Stafford — Newcastle-under-Lyme Mike Lloyd Music, Birmingham Cyclops Sounds, Manchester Apollo, Manchester Piccadilly Records, Wolverhampton Sundown Records; Deeside — Chester Migrant Mouse Records, Ellesmere Port Rox Records, Liverpool Probe Records, Manchester Piccadilly Records, Lancaster Ear Ere Records; and Leicester — Coventry Theatre.

Mad Madness split threat

MADNESS, who mark the return from their debut American concerts with a British tour that started this Wednesday, have threatened to break up if political agitation and violence continues at their gigs.

Speaking in Hollywood after a show at the Whisky A' Go-Go, saxophonist Lee Thompson repeated the band's rejection of the National Front tag that has dogged some of their shows, and said political activity at their gigs could end the band.

"I think I can speak for the rest of the band when I say that we don't want anything to do with the National Front. As far as I am concerned, if they start venting their political feelings at our gigs, then we can all call it a day.

"We're only in this game for a laugh, and if we were forced to drop out then none of us would have any regrets at all.

"Everything has happened so fast, and now that we're suddenly thrust in the limelight everyone is trying to analyse us, but we're determined not to go through the same thing that Sham 69 had to endure."

Madness manager John Hassler said in London that politics and violence at gigs were problems that seriously concerned the band, with no easy solutions in sight.

"The band aren't in a position to issue an ultimatum, as that might just encourage people to wreck gigs, but I would think that if it did get really heavy, they would jack it in."

Specials' specials

THE SPECIALS, who have just completed their 2-Tone tour, have three more concerts lined up before Christmas, including a special afternoon show for the under 16s only at Coventry Tiffanys on December 20.

The evening show at the same venue has already sold out. Proceeds go to a community education project.

Other concerts are Edinburgh Odeon (December 21) and Glasgow Apollo (23). They'll possibly be taking part in the Cambodian Relief fund concerts at Hammersmith Odeon after Christmas (see story elsewhere).

Meanwhile, label mates the Beat have more dates confirmed, at Coventry Tiffanys (December 13), Exeter St George's Hall (14), Stroud Subscription Rooms (15), Hull Wellington (17), Hammersmith Palais with the Police (18), Liverpool Erics (19), Sheffield Limit (January 3), Retford Porterhouse (4), Middlesbrough Rock Garden (5).

SLF in Ireland

STIFF LITTLE Fingers take time off from recording their second album to play two special Christmas concerts in Ireland — at Dublin Olympic on December 20 and Belfast Ulster Hall (21).

Supporting will be the Members and tickets for both shows will be £3.

SLF return to the studios in January with producer Doug Bennett to finish the album in time for a March release.

Simple sci-fi

SIMPLE MINDS' new album "Real To Real Cacophony" will be supplying the soundtrack to a French TV documentary about movie director Bertrand Tavernier's SF film "La Morte En Direct" — which is set in Glasgow.

Polydor cop 999

999 HAVE signed to Polydor, who'll be releasing the band's third album, "The Biggest Prize In Sport", on January 1.

The album was to have been released by Radar, but when that label dissolved earlier this year, 999 were forced to look for a third record company in six months — their first being UA. The band are currently putting together a British tour, which will open at Liverpool Erics on January 24.

It's a Stiff world

STIFF Records, who singlehandedly pioneered the return of the package tour in the Seventies, expand operations to a global scale in the Eighties.

They plan to take five bands on an around the world tour in a chartered 747 next year.

The bands included in the package, which will be calling in on the U.S., Europe, Asia and India, are Ian Dury, Madness, Lene Lovich, Rachel Sweet and Wreckless Eric.

The costly tour will begin in the middle of next year and will possibly last for five months.

While acknowledging that preparations for the tour are in progress, Stiff would not release any details because "many things are a bit shaky at the moment".

Stiff hope to break bands on a worldwide basis in the same way that the British tours established their acts here.

For their last "Be Stiff" venture, they hired a train to take Lovich and others around Britain, and succeeded in getting her a hit with "Lucky Number".

In previous years, Stiff launched the careers of Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe and Ian Dury in a similar way.

Wings for Kampuchea

WINGS, Queen and the Who have been confirmed for a series of charity shows at Hammersmith Odeon after Christmas, and Ian Dury may be added to the roster.

The concerts, organised by Harvey Goldsmith for UNICEF and the High Commission For Refugees to buy food for Kampuchea, open on December 26 with Queen, possibly followed by Ian Dury and guests (27), the Who and possibly the Specials (28) and Wings, with Billy Connolly, Elvis Costello and Rockpile (29).

As stated last week, part of the proceeds from the Who concert will go to their own 'Oo Charity Trust.

Tickets for the first two shows cost £5 and, for Who and Wings, £8. Postal applications only will be accepted, allowing a maximum of four tickets per applicant, which should be paid for with postal orders only, made payable to Odeon Hammersmith. The name of the concert applied for must be written on the left-hand corner of the envelope and an SAE should be included.

Applications for each concert should be made separately, and sent to the Box Office, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6.

The concerts will be filmed for possible TV airing in the spring.

IDE STORIES